

October 8, 2014

**‘Avoid fraud, apply the right way’**

**Q:** *I saw your anti-fraud campaign and want to apply for a visa. What do you mean by, “Apply the right way!” How do I do this?*

Applying for a visa the right way is simple. There are a few key points that we want all applicants to know.

- **Tell the truth. It’s not necessary to lie.** Applicants may believe they need to say that they have a better job or make more money than they actually do. Some people even think they need to say that they are married to get a visa! The truth is there is no personal formula for qualifying other than the existence of strong ties to your country of residence. We’ve also seen applicants render themselves permanently ineligible for visas by trying to conceal arrests or other information they believe to be derogatory. Lying or concealing information can permanently damage your chances of getting a visa. And in the internet age, in an increasingly interconnected world, misrepresentation is even less likely to succeed.
- **Don’t use a visa fixer.** Visa fixers claim to have inside information or access which will help you to get a visa, and they take your hard-earned money. Visa fixers coach applicants to tell lies, but it’s not necessary to lie to get a visa. The truth is that the consular officers make decisions based on U.S. immigration law, not on who you know. Furthermore, we can tell when people use visa fixers. Fixers who have been arrested have shared information about how they worked with applicants. When we detect this practice – and we do notice it often – it can also lead to a permanent ineligibility for a visa.
- **The consequences of lying or using a visa fixer can be much worse than simple visa denial.** The Embassy works with the JCF to have people involved in misrepresentation arrested. We encourage authorities to prosecute crimes connected with visa applications. This not only includes visa fixers, but applicants who misrepresent themselves to the Embassy. Don’t fall into this trap – tell the truth and avoid visa fixers. If you do this, you will “Apply the right way!”
- **Visa applicants should take comfort in a statistic:** The Embassy approved seventy percent of nonimmigrant visa applications last year. And how many fully qualified applicants were approved? One hundred percent.

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